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**For Immediate Release:**  
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**JUNE 16, 2004**

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## **MAYOR EDDIE PEREZ AND CONGRESSMAN JOHN LARSON TO BE HONORARY CHAIRS OF COMMISSION TO ADDRESS THE FUTURE OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH IN HARTFORD**

**HARTFORD, CT** – Hartford Mayor Eddie Perez and the Hartford Board of Education has convened a group of prominent leaders to become members of the newly formed ***Commission on the Status and Future of Hartford's Children and Youth***.

"The vision for establishing this Commission is to design an agenda in the City of Hartford that will help young people in the City of Hartford realize their full potential," stated Mayor Perez.

Mayor Perez and Congressman John Larson will be honorary co-chairs of the ***Commission on the Status and Future of Hartford's Children and Youth***. Dr. Michael Borrero, Chair of the Hartford Board of Education and Judge Michael Mack of the Juvenile Court System will serve as working co-chairs of the Commission.

"We aim to chart out a strategy that will unravel the multitude of forces that impact the lives of children and youth in our City from becoming educated, productive, and responsible citizens," said Dr. Michael Borrero.

**The Commission's Objectives are:**

- To focus on best practices to address problems and identify prevention strategies.
- To focus on age range from pre-school to 21 years of age.
- To produce a public policy agenda for the Board of Education and the City of Hartford that will focus on connecting and engaging youth to families, education, community services and the workforce.
- To sharply reduce the number of children and youth involved in the juvenile justice system.

The Commission will create six work groups in the following targeted areas: Families, Education, Public Health, Juvenile Justice, Community Services and Workforce Participation.

The Commission will complete their working session in six months and plan to share their work and findings at a region wide conference in fall of 2004.

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